

**BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING**  
**Executive Officer's Report**

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**Agenda Item: 5.0**

**Date:** November 16, 2011

**5.1 Board's Budget Update**

General Fund Loan/Fund Condition – The Board's Fund Condition is projected to have 0.1 months reserve at fiscal year end (6/30/12), therefore the General Fund loan was reduced to \$11.3 million instead of the original \$15 million. The money was transferred on September 12, 2011. BRN is slated to receive a \$1.5 million payment in FY 2012/13 leaving our reserve at 0.1 months; \$1.8 million in FY 2013/14 leaving our reserve at 0.0 months; and \$2.25 million in FY 2014/15 leaving our reserve at 0.1 months. Additional loan reimbursement payments will be determined annually based on the Board's fiscal needs.

PY Exemption Request – The Board submitted a hiring freeze exemption request for 26 positions at the beginning of July 2011. SCSA approved 12.0 of those positions on November 2, 2011. The recruitment process has begun to fill these newly exempted positions as quickly as possible. The Board received an exemption for the following positions:

- 3 – Staff Services Manager I's
- 1 – Supervising Special Investigator
- 6 – Special Investigators
- 1 – Associate Governmental Program Analyst
- 1 – Office Technician

A new freeze exemption request was submitted to DCA for the remaining vacant enforcement positions on November 4, 2011.

**5.2 Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Updates**

Hiring Freeze - The Department of Finance (DOF) has approved the State and Consumer Services Agency (SCSA) Control Section 3.91 (b) – Operational Efficiency Plan as directed in Executive Order B-3-11 issued on February 15, 2011.

The DCA's Control Section 3.91 (b) – Operational Efficiency Plan has been approved as submitted, according to Budget Letter (BL) 11-29. DCA will continue to submit hiring freeze exemption requests to SCSA for the Agency Secretary's approval. Any freeze exemption requests at DOF are approved. Additionally, there are new monthly reporting requirements to DOF per BL 11-29. DCA's first report will be due on December 9<sup>th</sup>. DCA is preparing to consolidate the requested information and has asked boards to submit their Monthly CS 3.91 (b) Operational Efficiency Plan and Hiring Data to their budget analyst by December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Expert Witness Contracts – Senate Bill 541 was enacted, with an urgency clause, and will allow boards and bureaus within the DCA to enter into a contract with an expert consultant, for specified exam and enforcement services, without going through the normal contract process which can take longer and may require additional review by outside control agencies. The new contract has been simplified and a standard template has been created which requires minimal customization in order to complete the form. Board staff has been trained by the DCA contracts unit and received delegation authority to enter into expert

consultant contracts. The new process must be implemented and in place for any expert who provides services on or after January 1, 2012 in order for the expert to be paid.

Breeze Update – The BreEZe Project Solution Vendor Accenture has arrived at DCA and the project officially launched on October 26<sup>th</sup>. The BreEZe system will be a new standardized enforcement and licensing IT system that will support DCA's 37 licensing entities and provide more efficient services to California's 37 million consumers. It will replace all of the current legacy and workaround databases, standardize licensing and enforcement, and create new tools never available before. BreEZe will also interface with Pearson VUE, NCSBN, and the AG's office billing system for up to date case cost tracking. Once completed, BreEZe will be the largest licensing system in the world, allowing California's nurses, doctors, contractors, cosmetologists and numerous licensees to apply for, renew, pay and track their licensing online. BreEZe will also allow consumers to file complaints, access complaint status and check licensee information online.

The Department executed a \$37.8 million contract in September with Accenture, which will use Iron Data as the software solution. Payment for the project is pending until the vendor delivers the desired product.

The first phase of the project will roll out in Fall 2012 for several health care boards, including the Board of Registered Nursing, and the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology.

The DCA held a Town Hall Meeting for BRN staff on November 2, 2011, to begin to familiarize staff with the new system, provide training information, and answer questions.

### **5.3 Travel Restrictions Executive Order B-6-11**

The BRN continues to operate under Executive Order B-6-11, issued by the Governor's office on April 26, 2011, regarding discretionary travel. The Executive Order stated that all discretionary travel is prohibited. All in-state non-discretionary travel must be approved by Agency Secretaries or Department Directors who do not report to an Agency Secretary. All out-of-state travel must be approved by the Governor's Office.

### **5.4 Nursing Workforce Advisory Committee**

The Nursing Workforce Advisory Committee (NWAC) met on October 20, 2011. Many local members and those who were able to pay their own travel attended the meeting held in Sacramento at DCA headquarters. Other members joined via conference call. The main focus of the meeting was to review and provide recommendations for the 2012 biennial RN survey instrument. Committee members also shared recent information and data collection related to the nursing workforce in California. Attached is a list of the current committee members.

This committee was originally appointed by the Board in November 2001 and last met in 2003. The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Board members and BRN staff on current and projected issues which could affect nursing workforce including supply and demand, and issues affecting the ability of nurses to provide safe, accessible patient care and also to share information and data between agencies.

### **5.5 Survey of APRNs by the California Department of Health Care Services**

The California Department of Health Care Services is currently surveying APRNs in California on their use of Health Information and Technology. A four page survey was sent to 5,000 NPs and CNMs in California. The survey is being led by Dr. Joanne Spetz at UCSF and the purpose of the survey is to provide the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid

Services (CMS) baseline data in preparation for a program that offers incentives to health care providers (MD, NP, CNMs, etc) to adopt, implement, or upgrade computerized medical record systems and use them meaningfully in practice. The incentives will be available through Medicare and Medi-Cal.

In addition, CMS approved the California Bridge to Reform (BTR) section 1115(a) Medicaid Demonstration effective November 1, 2010. The BTR allows the state to claim federal reimbursement for healthcare professional education programs funded by the UC, CSU and/or Community Colleges to the extent those programs are targeted to benefit low income population or underserved areas. The BRN provided data regarding licensee education and location to the Department of Health Care Services to assist in this data collection effort.

#### **5.6 National Center for Health Workforce Analysis**

The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) National Center for Health Workforce Analysis is conducting its first National Sample Survey of Nurse Practitioners (NSSNP) in 2012. This will provide much-needed information about current use of NPs as well as facilitate more accurate forecasting of NP retirements and career transitions. HRSA will most likely be consulting California's recent NP survey to assist in their survey development. The BRN provided data to HRSA for NPs in California.

#### **5.7 Public Record Requests**

The BRN continues to comply with public record requests and responds within the required timeframes that are set in Government Code Section 6250. For the period of September 1, 2011 through November 1, 2011, the Board has received and processed 38 public record requests.

#### **5.8 Board Member Correspondence**

For the period of September 1, 2011 through November 1, 2011, the BRN has received one letter addressed to Board Member(s).

## 5.9 Personnel

The following personnel changes have transpired since the last Board Meeting:

New Hires	Classification	Board Program
Roseanna Leon	Administrative Assistant II	Administration
Aaron Hanson	Staff Services Analyst	Discipline
Gus Krumm	Office Technician	Diversion
Leslie Esparza	Associate Governmental Program Analyst	Discipline

New Assignments	Classification	Board Program
John Knowles	Staff Services Analyst	Probation
Lisa Lopez	Special Investigator	Investigations